

Sgt Philip George Crittenden 400410 RAAF

Philip was born on 2 April 1921 in East Malvern, Victoria, Australia, the eldest son of George Walter Crittenden and Beatrice Annie Crittenden nee Brunt.

Educated at Our Lady's Convent Woodend, and the Marist Brothers St Andrew, Kyneton, Philip was employed as a journalist when, in December 1939 he volunteered for service in the RAAF. Called up in August 1940, following basic pilot training in Australia, in December 1940 Philip was sent to Canada to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In May 1941 Philip was awarded his Wings and immediately embarked for the UK.

Following advanced training at 21 OTU RAF Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, where he converted to multi crew/multi engine ops on the Wellington, in September 1941 Philip was posted to 458 Sqn at RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire.

On 20/21 October 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on the Antwerp Docks to hamper the German re-supply routes. A combined force of 35 aircraft, including seven 458 Sqn crews, were allocated to the op.

At 18:29 on 20 October Philip, operating as the 2nd Pilot, and the crew departed RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor in Wellington IV Z1218 (FU-D).

At 00:30 on 21 October Philip's aircraft was intercepted by a Bf110 and crashed at Mont-sur-Marchienne, 2 miles SW of Charleroi, Hainaut, Belgium killing five of the six-man crew. The Rear Gunner survived and was taken as POW.

Also Killed: PO David Kimber Fawkes (Obs); Sgt Andrew Young Condie (WOp/AG); Sgt Peter John Maxwell Hamilton (Pilot); Sgt Thomas Jackson (WOp/AG)

Philip is buried in Charleroi Communal Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium

Philip is commemorated on Wall Panel 24

Photo Source: findagrave

